



Engineering Forum Issue Paper

Online Hazardous Waste Cleanup Technical Resources

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I. PURPOSE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) produces numerous technical resources every year. Some are available in print, but many more are available online. This issue paper is intended to give the reader examples of some online technical resources that can assist with hazardous waste cleanups in the Superfund, Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), and Brownfields programs. Other federal and state agencies performing hazardous waste cleanups have great resources as well. Some non-EPA websites are included here, but it should be noted that it was not possible to include all of them. Given the dynamics of online resources, this paper provides only a snapshot of the resources available at the time of publication. EPA will attempt to update this paper at regular intervals to ensure its accuracy. Following background sections on Superfund and the Technical Support Project (TSP), the issue paper is divided into sections describing the various webpages.

II. BACKGROUND

Superfund

Years ago, people were less aware of how dumping chemical wastes might affect public health and the environment. On thousands of properties where such events occurred, the result was an uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste site, such as an abandoned warehouse, manufacturing facility, and/or inadequately closed landfill. Citizen concern over the extent of this problem led Congress to establish the Superfund Program in 1980 to locate, investigate, and clean up the worst sites nationwide. Using various resources, project managers review, develop, and implement viable remedial alternatives to clean up the environmental contamination at these sites, typically in soil and groundwater. In addition to the personnel assistance, online resources offer information intended to assist with these technology selections. They include technology overview information, case studies, cost information and contacts for consultation. The bulk of this issue paper will cover these online resources. The other cleanup programs within EPA (RCRA and Brownfields), can also benefit from these online resources, as the cleanup component of those programs is very similar to Superfund.

Technical Support Project

The EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), regional Waste Management Offices, and the Office of Research and Development (ORD) established the Technical Support Project (TSP) in 1987 to provide technical assistance to regional Remedial Project Managers, Corrective Action staff, and On-Scene Coordinators. The TSP consists of a network of regional technical forums and specialized Technical Support Centers located in ORD and the Office of Radiation Programs laboratories, and OSWER's Environmental Response Team. One of the objectives of the TSP is to network with other EPA programs and other Federal agencies.

Regional Forums and Superfund and Technology Liaisons

The TSP includes three technical Forums within the TSP: the [Engineering Forum](#), the [Ground Water Forum](#), and the [Federal Facilities Forum](#). Members of these Forums include regional Remedial Project Managers (RPMs) and technical support staff who work to improve communications and assist in technical transfer between the Regions and the Centers on nationally significant topics. The forums also act as technical resources and disseminate information resulting from the TSP to their regional colleagues. They meet semi-annually to discuss technical and policy issues and new technologies and to network with others, including EPA Headquarters, ORD, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and state personnel. In addition to providing technical assistance to regional staff, products generated typically include "issue papers" or other reference materials. For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/tio/tsp>. This issue paper is typical of the products that the TSP produces to assist practitioners in the waste field, both within and outside EPA.

Rounding out the support network for the waste programs are the ORD Superfund and Technology Liaisons or STLs. The STL program was created to:

- Station an ORD STL in each region to facilitate access to ORD laboratories, national centers, and ORD Headquarters.
- Provide and facilitate ORD's technical support programs in regional Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) programs.

- Promote the use of sound science and engineering in regional decision making in the OSWER programs. The program was created jointly by ORD, OSWER, and the regional offices in 1990 to expand the technical support available to regional staff. It is managed within ORD's Office of Science Policy in Headquarters.

III. USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

1. Clean-Up Information (CLU-IN)



<http://www.cluin.org>

EPA's "CLU-IN" website provides a tremendous amount of information about innovative treatment and site characterization technologies while acting as a forum for all waste remediation stakeholders. Internet training opportunities are also available via this website.

The website's resources are organized as follows: Remediation, Site Characterization and Monitoring, Training, Initiatives and Partnerships, Publications and Studio, Databases (software and tools), TechDirect and Newsletters, and Vendor and Developer Support.

As described on the website, here is the "Mission Statement" for CLU-IN:

The Hazardous Waste Clean-Up Information (CLU-IN) Web Site provides information about innovative treatment and site characterization technologies to the hazardous waste remediation community. It describes programs, organizations, publications, and other tools for federal and state personnel, consulting engineers, technology developers and vendors, remediation contractors, researchers, community groups, and individual citizens. The site was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) but is intended as a forum for all waste remediation stakeholders.

The history of CLU-IN notes that "Since 1996, CLU-IN has evolved to offer new information, features, and services to its user community." Here are the services offered at the time of publication:

- TechDirect Information Service Launched (1997)
- Streaming Videos (1998)
- Vendor and Developer Support (1998)
- Internet Seminars (1999)

